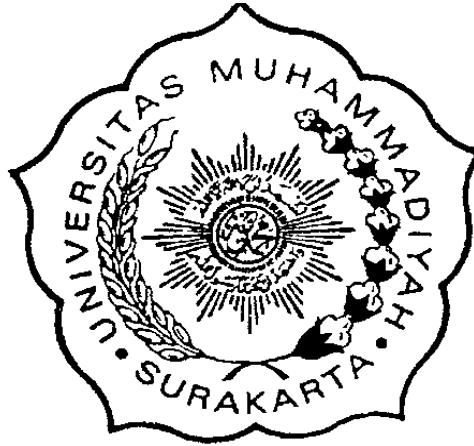


**THE MEANING OF LOVE REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S
DEAR JOHN NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC ANALYSIS**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for Getting
Bachelor Degree of Education in English Education Department**

by

HJ. FADHILAH HARAHAH PUTRI

A 320 130 102

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

2017

APPROVAL

**THE MEANING OF LOVE REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S
DEAR JOHN NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC ANALYSIS**

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

HJ. FADHILAH HARAHAB PUTRI

A 320.130.102

Approved to be Examined by
The Consultant

Consultant,



TitisSetyabudi, M.Hum.
NIK. 948

ACCEPTANCE

**THE MEANING OF LOVE REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S
DEAR JOHN NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC ANALYSIS**

by

HJ. FADHILAH HARAHAH PUTRI

A 320 130 102

Accepted by the Board of Examiner
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
in Surakarta, 26 May 2017

Team of Examiner:

1. Titis Setyabudi, M. Hum.
(Chair Person)
2. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M. Hum.
(Member I)
3. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M. Ed.
(Member II)

[Handwritten signatures and date 6.6.2017]



Prof. Dr. H. Joko Prayitno, M. Hum.

NIP. 196504281993031001

TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify in this publication article there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain Bachelor Degrees of university, nor there are options or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

Hence, later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold fully responsibility.

Surakarta, 26 May 2017

The Researcher,



HJ. FADHILAH HARAHAHAB PUTRI

A 320 130 102

THE MEANING OF LOVE REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S *DEAR JOHN* NOVEL (2006): A PSYCOANALYTIC ANALYSIS

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan tentang arti cinta pada novel *Dear John*. Penelitian ini menjelaskan bagaimana karakter John yang dianalisa menggunakan analisis psikologi dan untuk mengungkapkan arti cinta yang tercermin dalam novel *Dear John*. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Untuk menganalisis novel ini, peneliti menggunakan Analisis Psikologi. Sumber data utama untuk penelitian ini adalah novel *Dear John* (2006) oleh Nicholas Sparks. Sedangkan sumber data ke dua penelitian ini diambil dari beberapa informasi atau semua data referensial yang terkait dengan novel tersebut. Hasil dari penelitian menunjukan karakter dari John dan arti cinta dalam novel *Dear John* yang termasuk komponen dalam cinta dan tipe cinta.

Kata Kunci: Dear John, Analisis Psikologi, Arti Cinta.

ABSTRACT

This research is purposed to reveal the meaning of love in *Dear John novel*. The research describes how is the character of John analyzed using psychoanalytic analysis and to reveal the meaning of love reflected in the *Dear John novel*. The type of this research is qualitative study. In analyzing this novel, the researcher uses Psychoanalytic analysis. The primary data source for this research is *Dear John novel* (2006) by Nicholas Sparks. The secondary data of this research are taken from any information or all referential data related to the novel. The result of the research shows the character of John and the meaning of love in *Dear John Novel* that include: components of love, types of love.

Keywords: Dear John, Psychoanalytic Analysis, The meaning of love.

1. INTRODUCTION

This research is about the meaning of love reflected in Nicholas Sparks's novel *Dear John* (2006). *Dear John* is very interesting novel and very popular even the novel has been adapted into a movie. Moreover, this novel has moral value, this novel tells the reader about what the real love and sincerity is. However there have been three persons who have studied this novel. The first research was conducted by Esa Yolanda Putri (2012) entitled "*An analysis of stylistics in Dear John novel by Nicholas Sparks*". The second research was conducted by Rohana (2011) entitled "*Major Character Conflicts In Dear John 's Novel*". The third research was conducted by Okti

Ernawati (2015) entitled “*John’s Big Heart in Nicholas Spark’s Dear John Novel (2006): A psychoanalytic Approach*”

Dear John is a romance novel written by Nicholas Sparks released in 2006. The story is about John Tyree, who went into the army. During his holiday, he met Savannah and they were spending their time together. However Savannah has to go back to school and John has to go back to Germany to serve his country. While they are far away, they promise to write a letter for each other. When John got another break, he spent his time with Savannah. Finally when September 11 happens, John has to serve his country for two years longer. Savannah try to understand about that and they keep writing to each other. When John is in Germany, he gets a letter from Savannah, she tells him that she is falling in love with another guy. John is very angry because of that he decided to stay longer in the army. Unfortunately he has to go home because of his father sick and then passed away. Because of that also John knew that Savannah husband is also in hospital. Savannah’s husband will die soon if he did not get the medication he needs. Nevertheless, John sells his dad’s coin collection and makes an anonymous donation for Savannah’s husband. So her husband can get the medication he needs. Savannah never knows and never sees John again. Related to the explanation above, *Dear John* is a novel that tells about how we should love someone without expecting in return and about what sincerity is, which is related to the meaning of love.

Love is a valuable thing in human life. No one do not need love. Every person has their own interpretation about what love is. They have their own description about love. Every person has different understanding about love. Even so they will agree that they need to be loved or love. “Every human being wants to be loved. This is not a wholly incomprehensible statement. With the exception of some people with personality disorders, everyone wants to be loved. The feeling that one experiences, especially when they know that they are loved, is indescribable” (Chapman:2011). According to Maslow’s hierarchy in Chapman (2011:18). “People have a need for intimate

relationships, love, affection, and belonging and will seek to overcome feelings of aloneness and alienation.”

1.1. Love

Psychologist Robert Sternberg’s (1986) theory defines types of love based on three different scales: intimacy, passion, and commitment. It is important to identify that a relationship based on a single element is less likely to survive than one based on two or more. Different stages and types of love can be explained as different combinations of these three elements. For example, the relative emphasis of each component changes over time as an adult romantic relationship develops. There are some types of love according to Robert Sternberg: liking, infatuated love, empty love, romantic love, companionate love, fatuous love, consummate love. The balance among Sternberg’s three aspects of love is likely to shift through the course of a relationship. All three components in Sternberg’s aspects of love, for many of us it is an ideal relationship. However time alone does not cause intimacy, passion, and commitment to occur and grow. So it needs all those three components to be balance.

1.2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

Psychoanalytic theory is the theory of personality that analyze the dynamics of personality development. Psychoanalytic theory first proposed by Sigmund Freud in 1856. Sigmund Freud determined that the personality consists of three different elements: id, ego, and superego. According to Freud, our personality develops from the interactions among the human mind: the id, ego, and superego. Conflicts among these three structures, and our efforts to find balance among what each of them "desires," determines how we behave and approach the world. What balance we strike in any given situation determines how we will resolve the conflict.

2. METHOD

In writing this study, the writer applies a qualitative research because the study contains descriptive analysis. The object of the study is *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks which is published in 2006. In this study, the researcher is going to analyze it by using Psychoanalytic theory. There are two types of data in this research, namely the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data source for the study is *Dear John* novel (2006) by Nicholas Sparks. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information or all referential data related to the novel. In the technique of Data Collection, the researcher uses two techniques. There are some steps of data collection: (1) Classifying the data into groups according to categories elements of literary study. (2) Reading *Dear John* novel in English and Indonesian version to make sure understanding. (3) Looking for the several information and articles by browsing from internet that related to the object of the study. (4) Taking notes of important information that is used for both data source, primary and secondary data. (5) Identifying the problem of the data and also the finding of the research. (6) Arranging the data source into several parts according to its classification. In this research. The technique of data analysis, the writer uses a psychoanalytic of literature and use descriptive analysis. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are analyzing the structure elements based on *Dear John* novel and analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic perspectives.

The researcher observed *Dear John* (2006) by using psychoanalytic theory. The Psychoanalytic analysis focuses on the personality of human being. It is used to analyze the psychological condition of John as the main character. According to Freud, our personality develops from the interactions among these three:

2.1. The Id

Freud in Liang (2011) states that excessive, impulsive, blind, non-social, irrational, selfish, and only think about the pleasure. The id work in accordance with the pleasure principle, it tends to avoid

suffering and pursue the happiness. It is human's nature and energy from personal psychological. As the first part of personality, it includes of the primitive impulses such as anger, hatred, and hunger.

2.2. Superego

The superego is concerned with social rules and moral. It is just like a child who is developing to learn what their culture considers right and wrong. Superego expresses what is right and wrong, and forces the ego to prevent the id in pursuit of morally tolerable, not pleasurable or even realistic goals (Nurhidayati, 2010). According to (Siegfried, 2014) The Super-Ego reflects of cultural rules. The Super-Ego goals is perfection. The Super-Ego works in contradiction to the Id because it tries to act in a manner that is socially appropriate. As a consequence of the Super-Ego conflicting with the demands of the Id, the Ego often has to mediate among the two.

2.3. The Ego

In contrast to the instinctual id and the moral superego, the ego is the rational part of personality. According to Freud in (Lapsley and Stey, 2011:1) "ego is a variation of the id that occurs as a result of the straight influence of the external world". It is the center of reason, reality, and commonsense. According to Freud in (Siegfried, 2014: 1)" the Ego is recognized as being "a coherent organization of mental processes". The Id, Ego, and Superego work together in creating personality and behavior. Freud believed that the id, ego, and superego are in constant conflict and the adult personality and behavior are fixed in the results of these internal struggles through the childhood.

3. THE FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Structure of John's personality

The id, ego, and superego are three parts of the human personality which are part of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic personality theory.

According to Freud the id, ego, and superego are working together to create behavior.

3.1.1. Id

John's character from the analysis, in the beginning story of the novel, John often follows his Id. Just like how was John just follow his desire. He was amazed with Savannah's smile then follow his heart to accept her invitation. John's id always plays the important role in the beginning of love story between him and Savannah. When he was dating with Savannah for the first time, Savannah said that she had a good time with John, and then John already asked for the next dating. John just follows his desire, it seems like he did not think over his action.

3.1.2. Ego

The ego is the rational part of personality. John's ego reflected when after he broke up with Savannah. His Id wants Savannah back more than anything, but his Ego told him to look at the reality that now she has a husband. The next ego rises when he realized more the reality that now everything has changed, it is not the same anymore between him and Savannah. John realized that it is time to say goodbye and to let her go. John Id wants Savannah more than anything but here his Ego more dominant. Whenever his Id wants to please his desire to be with Savannah, his Ego told him to look at the reality now. So John realize that everything has changed between him and Savannah.

3.1.3. Superego

John's Id is his desires and aggressive ambition to fly home immediately, or at least call her. John also imagined, he wanted to beat that guy who take Savannah from his life. John's Ego is his feeling that very angry towards Savannah, he feels betrayed by her. But his superego makes him did not go home, and did not call or even write her back. The only thing he did just

crumpled the letter. Even after crumpled the letter he straightened it as best he could, and stuffed it back in the envelope, and decided to carry it with him like a wound that he had received in battle. It is shown how his Superego can control his Ego and Id. John knows what is the right things to do, he knows what he supposed not to do. “Superego expresses what is right and wrong, and forces the ego to inhibit the id in pursuit of morally tolerable, not pleasurable or even realistic aims” (Nurhidayati, 2010).

3.2. The Meaning of Love

3.2.1. Components of Love

According to a triangular theory of love, there are three components of love: 1) Intimacy, 2) Passion, 3) decision or commitment. Based on the data and analysis, the researcher found all of three components which is show in Dear John Novel.

a. Intimacy

Intimacy is a feeling that you have a closeness with your lover. Sternberg (1986) states that intimacy is “feelings of closeness, connectedness, and boundeness in loving relationships. Moreover, the novel told about John’s love. The story starts when John remembers how it began, his story with Savannah. How was his feeling, even after all that he has just those memories. John was deeply in love with Savannah. John has beautiful memories with Savannah. The feeling of closeness with Savannah belongs to intimacy. They used to deeply in to love each other.

b. Passion

Passion is strong feeling that you feel towards someone you love, it can be also sexual attraction. For example like kissing and having sex. According Merriam web master passion is “a strong liking or desire for or

devotion to some activity, object, or concept, sexual desire, an object of desire or deep interest". Sternberg states that intimacy is "which encompasses the drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, and sexual consummation". Moreover, the novel told about John and Savannah passion in love. The story is when Savannah get upset because John has to go for his job and John tries to make Savannah understand. John promises that in a few more months his job will be over. John held Savannah then finally there is strong sexual desire. This case told about John and Savannah Passion, there is strong feeling of sex desires.

c. Decision or Commitment

There is decision or commitment in relationship. When we fall in love we have made that decision to like or love that person and then after that we are going to make commitment in the relationship to maintain the relationship. Sternberg (1986) states that decision or commitment is "which encompasses, in the short term, the decision that one loves another, and in the long term, the commitment to maintain that love". So first of all it will be start with a decision and then commitment. Moreover, the novel told about John and Savannah decisions. John confessed his feeling towards Savannah, that he loves her. It means that John already made the decision to confess his feeling or his love to Savannah. Both of them John and Savannah confess their feeling toward each other. That is decision that they made to love each other. Decision is short term in the context commitment of relationship. Decision that lead towards commitment in the context long term in relationship. For example marriage is long

term form of commitment. Kusunoki and Upchurch (2011) states that “Contemporary young people form a variety of nonmarital relationship types, some of which may be viewed as short-term or casual; others may be viewed as precursors to long-term commitments, such as marriage”.

3.2.2. Types of Love

Based on the three elements that already analyzed above in the Dear John novel. There is all three elements in the novel: intimacy, passion, decision or commitment. So it means that Dear John novel includes into consummate love where there are all three components. Sternberg (1986) states that consummate love is love results from the full combination of the three components.

In John and Savannah relationship there are all three important components of love, but they did not stay together until the end. They do not have a happy ending in their love story. “The attainment of consummate love is no guarantee that it will last” (Sternberg, 1986). So it means that even there are all three components: intimacy, passion, decision or commitment in the relationship it does not mean that it will stay last forever.

Moreover, the novel told about how John and Savannah cannot maintain their love until the end. The story is when John reads the last letter from Savannah, the letter is about how Savannah was changed her heart. Savannah loves another guy. It is shown how Savannah feels toward John. She used to love him so much. But now everything has changed between John and Savannah, since they are apart for so far away and for long time because of John military. It is difficult for both of them. It is shown how difficult it is to maintain their relationship. “Reaching the goal is often easier than maintaining it”

(Sternberg, 1986). Because of the distance between Savannah and John now everything has changed, because Savannah cannot see and spend her time with him now her feelings towards John changed, in addition Savannah spend her time with another guy every day and then it makes her fall in love with that guy. Berscheid, Snyder, and Omoto (1989) claim that "people who do not see each other frequently-for whatever reason, even involuntary 'good' reasons-simply cannot be as close, other things being equal, as people who do spend a lot of time together" So because of savannah spend a lot of her time with another guy, the she fall in love with that guy. That is why John and Savannah cannot stay last till the end. Consummate love that John and Savannah have are not easy to maintain because of their situation. "Consummate love can be easier or more difficult to form and maintain, depending on the relationship and the situation in which it is developed and maintained" (Sternberg, 1986).

4. CONCLUSION

Based on this study, the researcher found on the previous chapter, the study comes to following conclusions.

First, the result based on psychoanalytic analysis, John's decision at first always followed by his Id. The beginning of his story with Savannah, John always followed hi Id. But by the time when start to separate with Savannah his decision followed by his Ego and superego. His superego always support his Ego.

Secondly, the meaning of love can be seen through the content and the type of love that reelected in the Dear John novel. In the novel there all three components of love: intimacy, passion, and decision or commitment. Based on those three element it is include into consummate love type. Consummate love is where there all three components of love in the

relationship. Even it is include into consummate love where there all three components exist, it does not make John and Savannah last forever. Because of their long distance they cannot spend their time together for quite long times it turns out into separation between them. Savannah fall in love with another guy and end up marrying that guy. After all what happened, John still feel the same towards Savannah he loves her, even at first of course he hate her and feel betrayed but it does not change his love for her. Moreover until in the end he try his best to help her and he loves her by let her go to be with her husband.

Moreover, based on psychoanalytic analysis, the Id of John is his feeling towards Savannah and he wants to be always with her. His ego is he wants to stay by her side whenever she needs him. But his Id and Ego pressured by his superego that he has to let her go and just help her with the donation that John makes for Savannah's husband. John loves is by letting her go, even his feeling towards Savannah never changes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Berry, Jeffrey Erik, "*Sigmund Freud, Arthur Schnitzler, and the Birth of Psychological Man*" (2012). Honors Theses. Paper 10.
- Chapman, Heather. 2011. "*Love: A biological, psychological and philosophical study*". University of Rhode Island
- Hancock, Beverley, Elizabeth Ockleford, and Kate Windridge. 2009. "*An Introduction to Qualitative Research*". National Institute for Health Research.
- Kusumawati, Eti.2007. "*An Analysis on Intrinsic Elements of Agatha Christie's 'The Pale Horse'*" State Islamic University "Syarif Hidayatullah" Jakarta.
- Kusunoki, Ysamin and Dawn, Upchurch. 2013. "*Populaion Studies Center*" University of Michigan.
- Lapsley, Daniel K. and Paul C. Stey. 2011. "*Id, Ego, and Superego*" University of Notre Dame
- Nurhidayati, Novita. 2010. " *A Psychological Study On the Id Versus The Superego as Rflected in " The mysterious Stranger"*, A Novella by Mark

Twain and Implication on Teaching Reading in SMA". Sebelas Maret University Surakarta.

Okti, Ermawati. 2011. "*John's Big Heart in Nicholas Spark's Dear John Novel (2006): A Psychoanalytic Approach*". State Islamic University "Syarif Hidayatullah" Jakarta.

Putri, Esa Yolanda. 2011. "*An Analysis of Stylistics in Dear John Novel by Nicholas Sparks*". State Islamic University "Syarif Hidayatullah" Jakarta.

Rohana. 2011. "*Major Character Conflicts In Dear John's Novel*". University of Sumatra Utara.

Siegfried, William. 2014. "*The Formation and Structure of the Human Psyche*". Florida Atlantic University

Sternberg, R. J. (1986) "*A triangular theory of love*". Psychological Review.

VIRTUAL REFERENCE

Elkrief, Noah. What is the meaning of love. Accessed on July 4th 2016, from <www.liveinthemoment.org/what-is-the-meaning-of-love/>

Freud, Sigmund. (1939). Structure of human mind. Accessed on July 4th 2016, from <www.boundless.com/psychology/textbooks/boundless-psychology-textbook/personality-16/psychodynamic-perspectives-on-personality-77/freudian-psychoanalytic-theory-of-personality-304-12839/>

Merriam-webster. Passion. Accessed on July 4th 2016, from <www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/passion>

Nicholson. 2011. Do you believe in unconditional love. Accessed on July 4th 2016, from <www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-attraction-doctor/201107/do-you-believe-in-unconditional-love%3Famp?espv=1>

Simplypsychoanalysis. Accessed on July 4th 2016, from <http://www.simplypsychology.org/psychoanalysis.html>

Sparks, Nicholas. Synopsis Dear John Novel. Accessed on June 4th 2016, from <<http://nicholassparks.com/stories/dear-john/>>